THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A portion of the Palace was damaged due to heavy rains in 1988.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India have been trying to carry out repairs to the Palace, but the owner did not allow entrance for the execution of work to the Archaeological Survey of India for conservation and meanwhile the matter has been taken to Court challenging the ownership. Unless access is given to the Archaeological Survey of India it will not be possible for it to undertake repair works.

Suggestions for modifications in the Merchant Shipping Act

3269. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Comerce and Industry of India have made certain suggestions including modification in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 to facilitate the transhipment of international containers at Indian ports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the decision, if any, taken by Government on the suggestions made by ASSOCHAM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in its National Seminar on "Shipping Ports and Containerisation in India" in December 1988 has made a number of recommendations, including modification in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 to facilitate the transhipment of containers at Indian Ports. The other recommendations relate to induction of private capital in ports, setting up of Inter Model Transport Corporation, duty free import of equipments for ICD, CFS etc.

(c) No decision has been taken on these recommendations as these have been presently circulated to various agencies for the comments.

Impact of price rise in the implementation of new education policy

3270. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made regarding the likely impact on the over-all implementation of the New Education Policy due to the constant price rise and the sectoral imbalances within the sphere of education; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the manner in which Government propose to tackle the resources problem for adequately funding the education schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Teacher-student ratio in the primary education

3271. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest teacher-student ratio in the primary education in the country and by what percentags if falls short of requirement; and